



# PRESS RELEASE

## House National Security Committee Floyd D. Spence, Chairman

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### **SPENCE CALLS FOR CLINTON ADMINISTRATION TO COME CLEAN ON BOSNIA POLICY**

Washington, D.C.— Floyd Spence (R-SC), Chairman of the House National Security Committee, today in a public hearing called upon the Clinton Administration to provide the American people with a full and clear explanation of the Administration's Bosnia policy including the details of the Administration's strategy for withdrawal of U.S. ground troops, and any plans for U.S. participation in a follow-on multinational peacekeeping force.

"When can we expect American troops to come home?" said Spence, expressing frustration with the Administration's refusal to provide any details. "The issue today is not whether IFOR's mission will end as planned in December, but *what will happen next?* Will the end of IFOR mean the end of U.S. troops in Bosnia? Or will it simply mean the beginning of a new phase of American military involvement and the deployment of additional combat forces as part of a restructured multinational peacekeeping force under a revised mandate?"

The hearing, which Spence originally requested in June, was called to examine U.S. policy on Bosnia including the increasing likelihood that the Administration will commit U.S. troops to Bosnia after the conclusion of the IFOR mission's December's withdrawal deadline.

Spence added that all indications "suggest that the Administration is quietly preparing for the commitment of U.S. troops on the ground in Bosnia well beyond this December's deadline — but does not want to admit such a fundamental change in plans prior to the November election. I find these developments highly disturbing, especially in light of the fact that neither Congress nor the American people have ever been given a clear explanation of the Administration's exit strategy in Bosnia, if in fact one exists. Such a major shift in policy deserves Congressional review and debate — both of which would be denied by the Administration's unwillingness to make its intentions clear prior to the pending Congressional adjournment."

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